



Date: April 2015
To: Eastern Wisconsin Local Government Units
From: Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Local Transportation Programs and Finance Section
Subject: **2016-2020 CMAQ Program Cycle Applications**
Application Deadline: June 19, 2015

WisDOT is preparing to accept the next round of applications for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. Examples of eligible CMAQ projects include new and expanded public transit services, carpool and vanpool programs, park-and-ride lots, new bicycle and pedestrian facilities, corridor-based traffic signalization, alternatively fueled vehicles, diesel engine retrofit and idling reduction strategies. **Applications are due June 19, 2015.**

The CMAQ application is available at the [WisDOT CMAQ website](#). *The Sponsor's Guide to Non-Traditional Transportation Project Implementation*ⁱ outlines federal and state requirements for implementing CMAQ and other multi-modal transportation projects. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact WisDOT staff, particularly new participants to the CMAQ process with project eligibility questions.

A government unit with taxing authority must sponsor all CMAQ projects, even if the private sector is involved in the project. Local sponsors in the following non-attainment and maintenance counties are eligible to apply for CMAQ funds: Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Walworth, Washington, Sheboygan, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Door. See [Federal CMAQ guidance](#) for more information.

Sometime after the onset of the next cycle, the current federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), will be replaced by Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America (GROW AMERICA), the new federal transportation bill sent to Congress this spring. WisDOT is programming this award cycle under the assumption that funding and program rules will continue as is currently established with MAP-21 and the state budget level of approximately \$10.7 million annually. Funding levels could change based upon the state biennial budget or the federal GROW AMERICA Act. Projects are funded at 80% federal, with a minimum 20% required local match. In a limited number of qualifying categories a higher percentage match is permitted.

The application deadline is June 19, 2015. A selection committee consisting of staff from the Southeastern Wisconsin and Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commissions, WisDOT and the Department of Natural Resources will review all project applications. Regional Planning

Commission approval is required before inclusion of CMAQ projects in the appropriate Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CMAQ projects must demonstrate realistic emission reductions from projects that reduce vehicle trips or Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), reduce congestion, reduce vehicle emissions from improvements to vehicles and fuels or provide education, outreach and marketing activities with quantifiable emission reduction benefits. WisDOT encourages local governments to read through the application guidelines and *The Sponsor's Guide* and to work with their appropriate WisDOT Region Office and Regional Planning Commission to develop projects.

The CMAQ selection committee will contact applicants to clarify information or request more specific data that is needed to estimate project emissions reductions. WisDOT looks forward to local participation in developing meaningful CMAQ projects. Given the continued high interest in the program, we expect a strong demand for the limited dollars available.

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ⁱ Wisconsin Department of Transportation Programs for Local Government website address is: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/index.htm> . The CMAQ application materials and the Sponsor's Guide can both be located through this link.